

In the Claims:

The following is an amendment to the claims in ascending order showing a detailed listing of all claims that are or were in the application irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application.

Amend claims 3-7, 9-10 and 18, and add new claims 21-22 as follows:

Claims 1-2 cancelled.

3. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for adjusting the position of a steering wheel in a vehicle comprising:

a lower steering column jacket for attachment to a vehicle;

an upper steering column jacket engaged for telescoping movement with said lower steering column jacket for supporting a steering wheel in a desired longitudinal position relative to said lower steering column jacket;

a tilt housing engaged for tilting movement with said upper steering column jacket for supporting the steering wheel in a desired angular position relative to said upper steering column jacket;

a single locking device for limiting said telescoping movement and said tilting movement; [[and]]

wherein said single locking device includes a linking member extending parallel to said upper steering column jacket and connected to said tilt housing for linear movement in response to said tilting movement of said tilt housing;

said single locking device having a guide connected rigidly to and supported continuously by said lower steering column jacket; and

said locking device having a first aperture in said guide and extending longitudinally with respect to said jackets and wherein said linking member is supported by said guide for linear movement through said first aperture.

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 3 wherein said linking member includes a first end pivotally associated with said tilt housing and a second end ~~slidably engaged releasably to said guide with said lower steering column jacket.~~

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 4 wherein said single locking device includes a wedge member disposed between said upper steering column jacket and said linking member and being moveable to between a locked position to urge said linking member and said upper steering column jacket away from one another in a direction transverse to said linear movement of said linking member and an unlocked position wherein said linking member is fitted loosely between said upper steering column jacket and said linking member.

6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein said lower steering column jacket defines at least in-part an elongated second aperture with an enlarged portion wherein said wedge member extends laterally, with respect to said elongated second aperture, through said enlarged portion.

7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 6 wherein ~~said lower steering column jacket is further defined as including a~~ the guide having ~~[[an]]~~ the first aperture ~~for receiving~~ receives said second end ~~and~~ for longitudinal linear movement through the elongated first aperture and transverse movement through said enlarged portion.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein said single locking device includes first engaging element fixedly associated with said upper steering column jacket and adjacent to said wedging element.

9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said single locking device includes second engaging element movably associated with said guide ~~lower steering column jacket~~ and adjacent to said linking member.

10. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for adjusting the position of a steering wheel in a vehicle comprising:

a lower steering column jacket for attachment to a vehicle;

an upper steering column jacket engaged for telescoping movement with said lower steering column jacket for supporting a steering wheel in a desired longitudinal position relative to said lower steering column jacket;

a tilt housing engaged for tilting movement with said upper steering column jacket for supporting the steering wheel in a desired angular position relative to said upper steering column jacket; [[and]]

a single locking device for limiting said telescoping movement and said tilting movement including a linking member extending parallel to and spaced from said upper steering column and having a first end pivotally ~~connected to~~ associated with said tilt housing and a second end slidably connected to said lower steering column jacket wherein said linking member moves linearly in response to said telescoping movement and said tilting movement; and

wherein said linking member is unitary and one piece.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein said first end is further defined as being adjustably connected to said tilt housing.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein said single locking device includes a wedge member disposed adjacent to said second end of said linking member and being moveable to a locked position to urge said linking member and said upper steering column jacket away from one another in a direction transverse to said linear movement of said linking member.

13. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein said lower steering column jacket is further defined as including a guide having a first aperture for receiving said second end and a second aperture for receiving said wedge member.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said lower steering column jacket defines a third aperture and said wedge member extends through said third aperture.

15. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein said second aperture includes an enlarged portion and said single locking device includes an engaging element disposed in said enlarged portion.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15 wherein said engaging element is adjustably positioned relative to said linking member.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15 wherein said second aperture is further defined as communicating with said enlarged portion.

18. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for adjusting the position of a steering wheel in a vehicle comprising:

a lower steering column jacket for attachment to a vehicle;

an upper steering column jacket engaged for telescoping movement with said lower steering column jacket for supporting a steering wheel in a desired longitudinal position relative to said lower steering column jacket;

a tilt housing engaged for tilting movement with said upper steering column jacket for supporting the steering wheel in a desired angular position relative to said upper steering column jacket; [[and]]

a single locking device for limiting said telescoping movement and said tilting movement including a linking member extending parallel to and spaced from said upper steering column and having a first end pivotally connected to said tilt housing and a second end slidably connected to said lower steering column jacket wherein said linking member moves linearly in response to said telescoping movement and said tilting movement and said single locking device also including a wedge member rotatably associated with said lower steering column jacket and being moveable between a locked position and unlocked position;

said single locking device having a guide engaged rigidly to said lower steering column;

an elongated first aperture extending parallel to said jackets and defined at least in-part by said guide, and wherein said linking member is supported by said guide and extends slidably through said first aperture; and

an elongated second aperture traversing through said first aperture and defined at least in-part by said guide, and wherein said wedging member is supported by said guide for rotation in said second aperture.

19. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 18 wherein said wedge member defines a pair of first surfaces extending substantially parallel to one another and spaced from one another a first distance wherein said first distance is greater than a second distance defined between said linking member and said upper steering column jacket.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 18 wherein said wedge member is received in a notch defined by said linking member.

21. (New) The apparatus of claim 18 further comprising:

a locked position of said locking device wherein said wedge member is wedged between said upper steering column jacket and said linking member, and said linking member is biased against said guide preventing linear movement of said guide; and

an unlocked position of said locking device wherein said wedge member is located between said upper steering column jacket and said linking member, and said linking member is located between said wedge member and said guide so that said linking member is free to move linearly through said first aperture.

22. (New) The apparatus of claim 21 further comprising a resiliently flexible engaging element of said locking device connected rigidly to said upper steering column jacket and located between said wedge member and said upper steering column jacket, and wherein said engaging element is flexed resiliently when said locking device is in said locked position.